

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

EISENHOWER EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM TRUST FUND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2121) to amend the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Act of 1990 to authorize additional appropriations for the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Program Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2121

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Program Trust Fund Enhancement Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) 2003 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship program.

(2) The Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship program was founded to honor the 34th President, Dwight D. Eisenhower, for his character, courage, patriotism, and commitment to international understanding through exchange.

(3) Over the past 50 years the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship program has exposed thousands of leaders throughout the world to the values of American political institutions, private sector commerce, educational opportunities, and cultural and societal traditions.

(4) Eisenhower Exchange Fellows worldwide have assumed positions of leadership in their respective countries, whether in the fields of government, industry, or civil society, and they retain links to the United States through their membership in Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships.

(5) The Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship is developing a new program to broaden its geographic base to emphasize the relationship of the United States with the Arab world.

(6) Congress has previously recognized the importance of the work of the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship program when it granted the program a Federal Charter under section 3(a) of Public Law 101-454.

(7) The Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship is one of the best examples of public and private partnerships.

(8) Additional resources are required to achieve the goals and objectives of the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship program in the 21st century.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EISENHOWER EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM TRUST FUND.

Section 5 of the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-454; 20 U.S.C. 5204) is amended—

(1) by striking "To provide" and inserting "(a) INITIAL ENDOWMENT.—To provide"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) ENHANCED ENDOWMENT.—In addition to the amount initially appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriation under subsection (a), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Program Trust Fund \$12,500,000 for fiscal year 2004."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2121.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) I am pleased to speak to a bill introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT). The measure authorizes an increase in the Eisenhower Fellows Trust Fund that was established in 1992. The proceeds of this trust fund finance this well-respected exchange program. The increase will be directed towards programs in the Middle East.

The Eisenhower Fellowships is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization created in 1953 to honor President Eisenhower. Eisenhower Fellowships promote international understanding and productivity through the exchange of information and ideas among emerging leaders throughout the world. The program brings rising leaders from other countries to the United States and sends American counterparts abroad with a custom designed program for each participant.

The fellowship program seeks to create a network of leaders whose ties to one another and the United States may foster peace, productivity and progress. This is accomplished by creating programs that enhance the capacities of men and women leaders likely to have an impact on their nation's development. Programs are designed to build on the individual's professional skills as well as develop contacts within the United States. These experiences are devoted to the growth of the individual Fellows, to the advancement of their effectiveness as leaders, and to their ability to contribute to progress and reconciliation among diverse groups.

The advantage to the United States in such interaction affords our citizens the opportunity to understand the aims, achievements and problems of different countries through meeting proven young leaders of these countries.

In closing, the Eisenhower Fellowships promote international under-

standing and productivity through the exchange of information, ideas and perspectives among emerging leaders throughout the world. This is important and useful to our future as a member of the globalized society.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation and I urge my colleagues to do so as well. This legislation reauthorizes an important public diplomacy program named after our 34th President, Dwight D. Eisenhower. The Eisenhower Fellowship Program, funded by both the private and public sectors, has made an enduring contribution to international understanding and furthering U.S. interests around the globe by promoting international understanding through the exchange of information, ideas and perspectives among emerging leaders worldwide. It brings rising foreign leaders to the United States and sends their American counterparts abroad, with a custom designed program for each participant.

Mr. Speaker, since its inception, over 1,500 fellows have become alumni of the program. Among them are four heads of government and 100 cabinet-level appointees. Numerous fellows have become ambassadors, legislators, university presidents, supreme court judges and governors. They head major corporations and nonprofit organizations involving health, environment and culture.

Mr. Speaker, this is the type of program that must be continued if we are going to try to improve our stature around the world and to change the misunderstandings that are being propagated by those who do not understand our great Nation.

Indeed, we must increase these types of programs if we are going to start to make inroads on the increasingly negative view of the United States that has been growing over the past 2 years. Recognizing this need, the Eisenhower program is developing an expanded program for Middle East and the Arab world.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support passage of this legislation, and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2121—the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Trust Fund Enhancement Act. The Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship honors former President Dwight D. Eisenhower for his character, courage and patriotism in both times of war and peace. Its programs are designed to advance international understanding by providing opportunities to emerging world leaders; exposing them to diverse experiences. Each year the program attracts approximately 45 leaders to the United States from countries around the world. Eisenhower Fellowships spend two months studying, learning and participating in democratic institutions at all levels of government.